

The Honorable Barbara J. Rothstein

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

RONALD MORGAN, as attorney-in-fact
for HELGA NEUSS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SEABOURN CRUISE LINE LIMITED,

Defendant.

CASE NO: 2:20-cv-00770-BJR

**STIPULATION AND ORDER TO
CONTINUE PRETRIAL DATES**

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1 Defendant SEABOURN CRUISE LINE, LTD. and Plaintiff RONALD MORGAN, as
2 attorney-in-fact for HELGA NEUSS, through their respective counsel of record, collectively
3 (the "Parties"), hereby submit this joint Stipulation to continue expert designations, the
4 discovery cutoff and the dispositive motion cutoff by approximately one month. The Parties
5 assert that there is good cause to amend the Order Setting Trial Dates and Related Dates (Dkt.
6 13). The request for the continuance is based on the following:

7 1. This action seeks damages resulting from the alleged personal injuries to
8 Plaintiff Helga Neuss, who was a passenger aboard the SEABOURN QUEST cruise vessel
9 when she allegedly suffered a stroke while on board. Plaintiff alleges that Seabourn was
10 negligent in conducting the medical evacuation of Ms. Neuss, contributing to her injuries.

11 2. The parties conferred completed their Rule 26(f) conference in July of 2020,
12 during the relatively early days of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. At the time it was not
13 expected that the stoppage of the cruise industry operations would persist through the end of the
14 year. This continued stoppage of international cruise operations has significantly hampered the
15 ability of the parties to obtain needed discovery in this case.

16 3. Defendant Princess Cruise Lines expects to remain on lockdown through the
17 end of 2020, with limited personnel at its Santa Clarita Headquarters and the vast majority of its
18 mostly international crewmembers sent home. Defendant expects these conditions to persist
19 through the end of 2020, and potentially into 2021.

20 4. The crewmembers involved in Plaintiff's medical disembarkation from the
21 vessel are either serving onboard Seabourn vessels overseas or are have been sent home
22 internationally. Seabourn and Plaintiff's counsel have been working together to secure
23 depositions of the crewmembers involved, but this has been rendered more difficult due to the
international aspect of completing their deposition.

5. Counsel have been working to obtain medical records relating to Plaintiff's treatment subsequent to her disembarkation in Scotland. Obtaining these records has taken longer than expected.

6. Given the continued difficulties with international travel and quarantine rules, the parties seek additional time to complete their discovery and secure expert testimony. Since Plaintiff's allegations relate closely to the medical documentation and decision-making a complete medical file and extensive expert testimony will be necessary. An extension of the expert designation and discovery deadlines will permit the parties to obtain further medical records and properly designate their experts and produce complete expert reports.

7. The parties have not previously requested or been granted any continuances or modifications to the Court's Order Setting Trial Dates and Related Dates (Dkt. No. 13). The requested continuance will not interfere with this Court's trial schedule as currently set.

8. In light of the above, the Parties submit there is good cause for the continuance reflected in the Parties' proposed schedule. Therefore, the parties respectfully request an approximately 35-day continuance to the deadlines below:

Matter	Current Date	Proposed Date
Reports from expert witness under FRCP 26(a)(2) due	January 4, 2021	February 8, 2021
Discovery Completed by	February 3, 2021	March 10, 2021
All dispositive motions must be filed by	March 5, 2021	April 9, 2021

All other dates, including trial, will remain the same.

IT IS SO STIPULATED.

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FOR PLAINTIFFS

Date: December 15, 2020

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FOR DEFENDANT

Date: December 15, 2020

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ORDER

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 16th day of December 2020.



Barbara J. Rothstein
United States District Judge